



FOUR NATIONS CHESS LEAGUE

Division 1 Round 5 report by Jack Rudd

Pool A

Guildford 2 vs. Sambuca Sharks

Ben Purton told me before the match that he'd be happy if his side scored half a game point in this match. As it happened, they scored three times that amount, and could have scored more: Ben himself was two pawns up against Graeme Buckley, but couldn't convert the advantage. Nevertheless, this was a typically convincing win from a Guildford 2 side that seem to have recovered from their shaky start to the season.

Flear, Glenn C (2478)



Rendle, Thomas (2390)



1.d4 f5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.Bg5 d5 [Rendle usually favours the Classical Dutch, but here 3...e6 can be met by 4.e4 . Hence his choice of the Stonewall.] **4.e3 e6 5.Nf3 Be7 6.Bd3 0-0 7.0-0 Ne4 8.Bxe7 Qxe7 9.Ne2 b6** [9...Nd7 10.c4 c6 11.Ne5 (11.a3 Rf6 12.b4 Rh6 13.b5 Ndf6 14.bxc6 bxc6 15.Ne5 Ng4 16.Nxg4 fxg4 17.f3 Rxh2 18.Kxh2 Qh4+ 19.Kg1 g3 20.Nxg3 Nxg3 21.Re1 e5 22.dxe5 Bg4 23.fxg4 Rf8 24.Bf5 Qh1+ 25.Kf2 Ne4+ 0-1 Mascaro March,P (2359)-Garza Marco,S (2349)/Barcelona 2006; 11.Rc1 Kh8 12.a3 Ndf6 13.Ne5 Nd7 14.b4 a5 15.f3 Ng5 16.Qb3 Nf7 17.Nxf7+ Rxf7 18.b5 a4 19.Qb2 e5 20.cxd5 cxd5 21.dxe5 Nxe5 22.Qd4 Qd6 23.Nf4 Be6 24.Rfd1 Re7 25.Qc5 Qxc5 Vitiugov,N (2482)-Slugin,S (2355)/Sochi 2005/1-0 (46)) 11...Nxe5 12.dxe5 b6 13.Rc1 Bb7 14.f3 Nc5 15.Bb1 Rfd8 16.Qe1 dxc4 17.Rxc4 Ba6 18.Rd4 Nd3 19.Bxd3 Bxd3 20.Qd2 Bxe2 21.Qxe2 Rxd4 22.exd4 Qb4 23.Rd1 Rd8 24.a3 0-1 Garza Marco,S (2225)-Rivera Kuzawka,D (2365)/Zaragoza 1998; 9...Nd6 10.Rc1 Bd7 11.c4 dxc4 12.Bxc4 Nxc4 13.Rxc4 Bc6 14.Nc3 Nd7

15.b4 Nb6 16.Rc5 Nd7 17.Rc4 Nb6 18.Rc5 Nd7 ½-½ Nielsen,P (2578)-Gurevich,M (2667)/Germany 2001]

10.c4 Bb7 11.Rc1 c6 12.cxd5 exd5 13.Ne5 Rf6?! [13...c5 is probably the way to play this, taking advantage of the temporary instability of the knight on e5. The text begins a plausible way to develop that fails tactically.] **14.Nf4 Nd7?**



15.Nxd5! cxd5 16.Rc7 Bc8 17.Qb3 Rd6 [17...Qe6 18.Bxe4 fxe4 19.Rc6 Nc5 20.Rxe6 Nxb3 21.Re8+ Rf8 22.Rxf8+ Kxf8 23.axb3 and white is a pawn up with much the better minor piece.] **18.Rfc1 Qf8 19.Qc2 Nxe5 20.dxe5 Rd8** [Fritz recommends 20...Re6 , but that just leaves black a passed pawn down in an ending with no counterplay.] **21.Qc6 Nc5** [21...Rb8 22.e6 Qe8 23.e7 and wins.] **22.Qxa8 Ba6 23.Qxa7 Bxd3 24.Qxb6 Ne4 25.Rc8 Re8** [25...Rxc8 26.Qe6+] **26.Qc6 1-0**

RD 5		GUILDFORD-A&DC 2	2418	v	SAMBUCA SHARKS	2167
1	w	Flear, Glenn C	2478	1 - 0	Rendle, Thomas E	2390
2	b	Shaw, John K	2464	1 - 0	Van Weersel, Arlette (F)	2214
3	w	Cherniaev, Alexander	2438	1 - 0	Williams, Samuel G	2206
4	b	Pert, Richard G	2456	1 - 0	Ruston, Mark R	2097
5	w	Tissir, Mohamed	2466	1 - 0	Edgell, Ben P	2101
6	b	Buckley, Graeme	2399	½ - ½	Purton, Ben J	2103
7	w	Muir, Andrew J	2354	½ - ½	Varnam, Liam D	2109
8	b	Sandu, Mihaela (F)	2285	½ - ½	Linford, Charles	2119
				6½-1½		

Barbican 1 vs. Cambridge University 1

Barbican got the expected comfortable victory over Cambridge in this match, but it took them a while: five of the eight games were 54 moves or longer. One of those, Rajlich-Devereaux, managed the rare distinction of a rule 1.3 finish (if the position is such that neither player can possibly checkmate, the game is drawn).

RD 5		CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY 1	2267	v	BARBICAN 4NCL 1	2375
1	w	Mah, Karl C C	2404	½ - ½	Turner, Matthew J	2512
2	b	Pinter, Gabor	2355	0 - 1	D'Costa, Lorin A R	2445
3	w	Rajlich, Iweta (F)	2399	½ - ½	Devereaux, Maxim	2437
4	b	Moskovic, David M	2307	0 - 1	Collinson, Adam	2389
5	w	Pickard, Charles	2207	0 - 1	Cox, John J	2364
6	b	Quist, Sven Roy	2136	½ - ½	Knott, Simon	2349
7	w	Churm, Rohan M	2192	0 - 1	Berry, Neil	2317
8	b	Spencer, Carl	2134	1 - 0	Regan, Natasha (F)	2186
				2½-5½		

Wood Green Hilsmark Kingfisher 1 vs. South Wales Dragons 1



Reality bit for South Wales Dragons here, as I was expecting it to. What I didn't expect was the extent to which it would happen; Wood Green Hilsmark Kingfisher managed the second 8-0 victory in this season's first division. Students of my opening repertoire could have been excused for believing I was playing in this match: the game Gordon-Cobb featured a Blumenfeld Gambit, while Hanley-O'Neill featured the Sicilian line 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.e5.

Congratulations to Ketevan, who as we previously reported, has provisionally achieved her GM title, the 1st ever UK female GM.

RD		WOOD GREEN HILSMARK KINGFISHER 1	2447	v	SOUTH WALES DRAGONS 1	2210
1	w	Gordon, Stephen J	2524	1 - 0	Cobb, James E	2440
2	b	Greet, Andrew N	2446	1 - 0	Cooper, John G	2362
3	w	Trent, Lawrence	2487	1 - 0	Morris, Charles F	2189
4	b	Arakhamia-Grant, Ketevan (F)	2500	1 - 0	Zeidler, Sven P	2231
5	w	Hanley, Craig A	2439	1 - 0	O'Neill, Paul	2204
6	b	Karim, Ismail	2407	1 - 0	Smith, Jeffrey R	2209
7	w	McDonald, Neil	2401	1 - 0	Rayner, Francis	2151
8	b	Tiller, Bjorn	2370	1 - 0	Blackburn, Suzie (F)	1891
				8 - 0		

White Rose vs. Richmond

As Oscar Wilde didn't quite say, to have one "board eight no-show on the day of the match" may be regarded as misfortune; to have two looks like carelessness. Richmond's board eight failed to arrive for this match, costing them another two default penalty points – another one would give them a second deducted match point. Even a full team would probably not have saved them though: White Rose won 6-2 with wins on the top three boards.

Van de Grient,Jan Willem (2355) - Bisby,Daniel L (2304) [C05]

[Rudd, Jack]

1.d4 e6 2.e4 d5 3.Nd2 Nf6 4.e5 Nfd7 5.f4 c5 6.c3 Nc6 7.Ndf3 cxd4 8.cxd4 a5 9.Bd3 a4 10.Ne2 Bb4+ [10...Nb6 11.0-0 Nb4 12.Bb1 Bd7 13.Nc3 Nc6 14.Bc2 Nb4 15.Bb1 Nc6 16.g4 h5 17.Ng5 hxg4 18.f5 exf5 19.Bxf5 Bxf5 20.Rxf5 Qc8 21.Nb5 Nc4 22.Qf1 N6xe5 23.dxe5 Qc5+ 24.Rf2 Nxe5 25.Kg2 1-0 Sax,G (2560)-Bukal,V (2435)/Tucepi 1996] 11.Kf2 [White declines the opportunity to exchange off his "bad" bishop with 11.Bd2, reckoning that it is actually more likely to be of use than black's "good" bishop.] 11...a3 12.b3 f5 [12...f6 is the major alternative here, attempting to break white's centre down rather than block the advance of the f-pawn. 13.g3 0-0 14.Kg2 g5 15.h3 Kh8 16.exf6 gxf4 17.Bxf4 Nxf6 18.Bh6 Rg8 19.Rf1 Bd6 20.Ng5 Qe7 21.Bxh7 Bd7 22.Qd3 e5 23.Bxg8 e4 24.Qe3 Rxg8 25.Rf2 Rg6 26.Raf1 Kg8 27.Nc3 Dehghani,H (2220)-Mahjoob,N/Mashad 2003/1-0 (35); 12...0-0?? falls into the standard Greek Gift line: 13.Bxh7+ Kxh7 14.Ng5+ Kg8 15.Qd3 g6 16.Qh3] 13.Be3 0-0 14.Rc1



This is the sort of position that is very uncomfortable to play as black. It's not so much that it's bad, more that it's lifeless and there's no easy-to-find plan. White, on the other hand, will play to open up the kingside with **g4.14...Be7 15.Bb1 Ndb8 16.Rg1 Bd7** [16...Kh8 could be tried here, planning to meet 17.g4 with 17...g6, but the black king will then be very unsafely placed.] **17.g4 Nb4 18.gxf5 exf5** White now has a protected passed pawn, but this is of little relevance yet. More pertinently, the f-pawn will at some stage have to be defended with ...g6, and then white can launch a minority attack with his own h-pawn. **19.Rg2 Ra6 20.Qd2 Rc6 21.Rcg1 g6** [21...Rf7 22.e6 Rxe6 23.Ne5] **22.Rh1 Bh4+ 23.Ng3 N8a6 24.Rgg1 Kh8 25.Kg2 Be7 26.h4**



26...Qc8 [26...h5 looks ugly, but it might be the best way to counter white's plan.] **27.Rc1 Rxc1 28.Rxc1 Be6 29.Kf2 Qd8 30.Rh1 Be8?** [This was the last chance to play 30...h5] **31.h5 Bf7**



32.e6! Be8 [32...Bxe6 33.hxg6 and the entire kingside collapses.] **33.hxg6 Bxg6 34.Ne5 Kg7 35.Nh5+ Kh8 36.Kf3?!** [36.Nxg6+ hxg6 37.Kf1! Bh4 38.Qg2 Rg8 (38...gxh5 39.Qg6) 39.Qh3 Qe7 (39...gxh5 40.Qxf5) 40.Bf2 and white wins.] **36...Bh4 37.Ng3 Kg7 38.Qh2 Bxg3 39.Qh6+ Kf6 40.Kxg3?** [And here 40.Nd7+ finishes things off more quickly.] **40...Kxe6 41.Nxg6 hxg6 42.Qxg6+ Rf6 43.Bxf5+ Kd6 44.Qg5**



Despite missing a couple of quicker wins, white's extra pawn, two bishops and better co-ordinated pieces make this a very clearly winning position. **44...Qe7 45.Bc1 Nxa2 46.Bxa3+ N6b4 47.Bg4 Kc6** [47...Qe3+ 48.Bf3 Qxd4 49.Rd1 Qc3 50.Qxd5+ Ke7 51.Qd8+ Kf7 52.Rd7+ Kg6 53.Qg8+ Kh6 54.Rh7#] **48.Qe5 Qf7 49.Rh7 Qxh7 50.Qxf6+ Kb5? 51.Be2+ Nd3**



[51...Ka5 52.Qd8+ b6 53.Qa8+] **52.f5?** [52.Bc5! overloads the black queen, which can't defend both b6 and d3.] **52...Qc7+ 53.Qe5 Qc3 54.Qxd5+ Kb6 55.Bxd3** The simplest, taking play into a won bishop-v-knight ending. **55...Qxd3+ 56.Qf3 Qxd4 57.Qf2 Qxf2+ 58.Kxf2 Nc3 59.Kf3 Nd5 60.Ke4 Nf6+ 61.Ke5 Ng4+ 62.Ke6 Kc6 63.Be7 1-0**

RD 5		WHITE ROSE 1	2259	v	RICHMOND	2255
1	w	McNab, Colin	2473	1 - 0	Bates, Richard A	2392
2	b	Palliser, Richard	2406	1 - 0	Wall, Gavin	2302
3	w	Van de Griendt, Jan W	2355	1 - 0	Bisby, Daniel L	2304
4	b	Gourlay, Iain	2362	½ - ½	Franklin, Michael J	2226
5	w	Barrett, Steve J	2234	0 - 1	Osborne, Marcus E	2192
6	b	Gayson, Peter M	2258	½ - ½	Muter, Donny	2207
7	w	Adams, David M	2191	1 - 0	Meyer, Gordon	2160
8	b	Hollingworth, Evie (F) *	1790	1 - 0	default	
				6 - 2		

Pool B

Betsson.com vs. Barbican 2

Andrew Ledger was not in the best of moods after this match; his blunder in a winning position against Andrew Lewis cost Betsson.com a potentially crucial win. The match actually ended up as a draw, which could potentially affect both this pool and the relegation pool. I'll expand more on this after the round 6 reports.

RD 5		BETSSON.COM	2297	v	BARBICAN 4NCL 2	2233
1	w	Hunt, Adam C	2431	1 - 0	Taylor, Martin R	2339
2	b	Ledger, Andrew J	2431	0 - 1	Lewis, Andrew P	2274
3	w	Ansell, Simon	2405	½ - ½	Piper, Matthew S	2287
4	b	Eames, Robert G	2335	0 - 1	Rogers, Jonathan W	2330
5	w	Duncan, Christopher R	2323	1 - 0	Taylor, Peter	2252
6	b	Ledger, David J	2265	1 - 0	Franklin, Samuel	2142
7	w	Ledger, Stephen C	2150	0 - 1	Ynojosa, Felix J	2174
8	b	Yurenok, Maria S (F)	2035	½ - ½	Bhatia, Kanwal K (F)	2067
				4 - 4		

Northwest Eagles vs. Guildford 1

Guildford 1 ensured their place in the top four with two rounds to spare with a 7½-½ hammering of seven-player Northwest Eagles. The only player to score for the latter was Graham Morrison, who carried on his good form this season by drawing with Jonathan Rowson; Morrison must now be among the favourites to pick up an IM norm this season.

RD 5		NORTH WEST EAGLES	2152	v	GUILDFORD-A&DC 1	2495
1	w	Morrison, Graham	2342	½ - ½	Rowson, Jonathan	2585
2	b	Coates, Kenneth G	2234	0 - 1	Pert, Nicholas	2536
3	w	Hulmes, David I	2219	0 - 1	Conquest, Stuart C	2531
4	b	Redmond, John	2207	0 - 1	King, Daniel J	2512
5	w	Burke, John	2085	0 - 1	Hebden, Mark L	2522
6	b	Duckers, Harvey L	2060	0 - 1	Kosten, Anthony C	2514
7	w	Morrison, Lynne (F)	1920	0 - 1	Berzinsh, Roland	2420
8	b	default		0 - 1	Lalic, Susan (F)	2340
				½-7½		

Wood Green Hilsmark Kingfisher 2 vs. Bristol 1

This match ensured our place in the relegation pool at the end of the season, while making our opponents hot favourites to be part of the championship pool. As is so often the case in our matches, several games that could have gone either way all went the same way, and we found ourselves staring at a 5½-2½ defeat. This game from the bottom board was, however, a small consolation.

Smith,Olivia (1996) - Hegarty,Sarah (2088) [B39]
[Rudd, Jack]



1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 g6 5.c4 Bg7 6.Be3 Nf6 7.Nc3 Ng4 8.Qxg4 Nxd4 9.Qd1 e5



10.f3!? An ambitious choice from white, aiming to bolster her centre before kicking the knight out. As the game goes, it works out very well. [10.g3 d6 11.Bg2 Be6 12.b3 Qa5 13.Bd2 Qc5 14.0-0 0-0 15.Rc1 a6 16.Be3 Qa5 17.Qd3 Rac8 18.Bxd4 exd4 19.Ne2 b5 20.cxb5 Qxb5 ½-½ Keres,P-Benko,P/Moscow 1956; 10.Bd3 0-0 (10...a6 11.0-0 d6 12.Nd5 0-0 13.Qd2 Be6 14.Bg5 f6 15.Be3 Rc8 16.Rac1 Rf7 17.b3 f5 18.Bxd4 exd4 19.exf5 Bxd5 20.fxg6 hxg6 21.cxd5 Rc3 22.Bxg6 Rf8 23.Qe2 Qg5 24.Rxc3 dxc3 25.Qe6+ Miranda,M-Camara,R/Rio de Janeiro 1965/1-0 (41)) 11.Qd2 d6 12.Nd5 Be6 13.0-0 a5 14.Rae1 Bxd5 15.cxd5 Qb6 16.Rc1 Qb4 17.Qxb4 axb4 18.Rc4 b3 19.axb3 f5 20.Bxd4 fxe4 21.Bxe5 Bxe5 22.Bxe4 Bxb2 23.f4 b5 24.Rb4 Bc3 Maiorov,O (2458)-Tseshkovsky,V (2547)/Krasnodar 1999/½-½];

10.h4 d6 11.h5 Be6 12.Rc1 Rc8 13.b3 a6 14.Bd3 Qa5 15.Qd2 b5 16.Nd5 Qxd2+ 17.Kxd2 Bxd5 18.cxd5 Kd7 19.Rxc8 Rxc8 20.hxg6 hxg6 21.Rh7 Rg8 22.Kc3 Ke7 23.Kb4 Bf6 24.Ka5 Rb8 1-0 Iordachescu,V (2592)-Massoni,M (2024)/Calvi 2006; 10.Bxd4 exd4 11.Nd5 0-0 12.Bd3 d6 13.0-0 Be6 14.Nf4 Rc8 15.b3 Qh4 16.Ne2 Rc5 17.Ng3 Be5 18.Rc1 Bf4 19.Rc2 Rh5 20.h3 Rg5 21.Qe2 Bxh3 0-1 Jain,A-Hegarty,S (1943)/Swansea 2006; 10.Be2 0-0 11.h4 f5 12.h5 f4 13.Bxd4 exd4 14.Nd5 g5 15.Bg4 Re8 16.Qf3 h6 17.0-0 d6 18.Bf5 Re5 19.g4 Bd7 20.Qd3 Bc6 21.b4 Re8 22.a4 a5 23.b5 Bd7 24.Bxd7 Qxd7 Aronin,L-Aronson,L/Moscow 1957/1-0 (34)] **10...0-0 11.Qd2 d6?!** [11...f5! is probably best, aiming to exploit white's lack of development before her structural advantages take over.] **12.Ne2 Nxe2 13.Bxe2 Qe7 14.h4!?** f5 [14...h5 would stem the plan white has just started.] **15.h5 f4 16.Bf2 g5 17.h6 Bf6 18.Rd1 Rd8**



19.c5! dxc5 20.Qxd8+ Qxd8 21.Rxd8+ Bxd8 22.Bc4+ The idea behind h4-h5-h6 now becomes clear: either the black king is forced out of the corner and has to abandon the h-pawn, or it gets stuck in the corner in severe danger of mate. **22...Kh8 23.Bxc5 Bd7 24.Ke2 Bf6** [24...Rc8 25.Rd1 Rxc5 26.Rxd7 Rc8 27.Be6 Rb8 28.Bf5] **25.Rd1 Be8 26.Rd6 Be7**



27.Rc6! This neat little tactic wins the e-pawn. **27...Bxc5** [27...Bxc6 28.Bxe7 with mate to follow.] **28.Rxc5 Bd7** **29.Rxe5 g4** **30.Re7 Rd8** **31.Rf7 b5** **32.Bd5 gxf3+** **33.gxf3 b4** **34.Rxf4** With two extra pawns, white has a comfortably winning position. Black has just stalemates left to play for. **34...Bb5+** **35.Ke3 a5** **36.Rf7 a4** **37.Rb7 b3** **38.Rxb5 a3** **39.bxa3??** [39.Bxb3 axb2 40.Bc2 is the simplest way to win here, killing off the stalemate idea for good.] **39...bxa2** **40.Bxa2**



40...Rd3+ **41.Ke2 Rd2+** **42.Kf1 Rd1+??** [42...Rf2+ 43.Ke1 Re2+ 44.Kd1 Rd2+ 45.Kc1 Rc2+ 46.Kb1 Rb2+ and white must give up the rook or allow stalemate.] **43.Kf2 Rd2+** **44.Kg3 Rg2+** **45.Kf4 Rg4+** **46.Ke3 Rxe4+** **47.Kd3 Re3+** [47...Rd4+ 48.Kc3 Rb4 49.Bc4 Rb3+ 50.Kd4 Rb2 51.a4] **48.Kc4 Rc3+** **49.Kb4 1-0**

RD 5		WOOD GREEN HILSMARK KINGFISHER 2	2265	v	BRISTOL 1	2205
1	w	Houska, Jovanka (F)	2392	1 - 0	Rudd, Jack	2334
2	b	Broomfield, Matthew	2340	½ - ½	Cobb, Charles	2397
3	w	Sowray, Peter J	2303	0 - 1	Buckley, David E	2245
4	b	Farrand, Tom	2266	1 - 0	Beaumont, Chris	2308
5	w	Briscoe, Christopher	2268	1 - 0	Curtis, John	2125
6	b	Lindner, Daniel	2243	1 - 0	Dilleigh, Stephen P	2151
7	w	Hagasaether, Ellen (F)	2223	1 - 0	Collier, David O	2083
8	b	Hegarty, Sarah (F)	2088	0 - 1	Smith, Olivia (F)	1996
				5½-2½		

Pride and Prejudice vs. GAMBIT ADs

If you told Pride and Prejudice before this match that they'd pick up 2½ points with the black pieces, they would probably have accepted it. However, they only picked up one point with the white pieces, thus losing the match, and with it probably their chances of competing for honours in the championship pool. Ian Snape's win with the Dragon against his Coulsdon team-mate Yang-Fan Zhou is well worth a look.

RD 5		PRIDE AND PREJUDICE	2302	v	THE GAMBIT ADS	2309
1	w	Emms, John M	2488	½ - ½	Speelman, Jonathan S	2536
2	b	Summerscale, Aaron	2470	0 - 1	Davies, Nigel R	2483
3	w	Hunt, Harriet (F)	2463	½ - ½	Mestel, A Jonathan	2475
4	b	Ward, Chris G	2426	1 - 0	Richardson, John R	2312
5	w	Zhou, Yang-Fan	2232	0 - 1	Snape, Ian	2210
6	b	Sahl, Sheila (F)	2219	½ - ½	Anderton, David	2225
7	w	Winkelmann, Elena (F)	2101	0 - 1	Bellin, Jana (F)	2184
8	b	Auckland, Elliott	2014	1 - 0	Wilman, Carey A (F)	2047
				3½-4½		

You can find all of the games from this round here:

PGN http://www.4ncl.co.uk/0809_div1-05.pgn

Game viewer http://www.4ncl.co.uk/0809_div1-05viewer.htm

And view results and information about the 4ncl here: <http://www.4ncl.co.uk/>